

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15 /069 R

66610

DRAFTED BY: EUR/EE:JABAKER

9/5/73 EXT 22673

APPROVED BY: EUR:GSSPRINGSTEEN

EUR/NE:SGEORGE (DRAFT) EUR/CE:NCLEDSKY (DRAFT)

EUR/WE:RDVINE (SUBS) EUR/SOV:JSROY (SUBS)

EUR/RPM:EJSTREATOR (DRAFT) EUR:GVEST (DRAFT)

EUR/IB:EMRABENOLD (DRAFT)

DISTRIBUTION: NONE INDICATED

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P R 052347Z SEP 73

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 176743

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XG

SUBJECT: RFE/RL FUND RAISING IN EUROPE

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REFS: BONN 12177, LUXEMBOURG 579, COPENHAGEN 1801

1. DEPARTMENT ENCOURAGED BY REPORTS FROM BONN, LUXEMBOURG, AND COPENHAGEN THAT EC NINE NOW SEIZED AT LEAST INFORMALLY OF ISSUE OF SUPPORT FOR RFE/RL. THIS DEVELOPMENT SHOULD MULTILATERALIZE ISSUE IN MANNER DESIRED BY FRG WHICH HAS MADE CLEAR IT DID NOT WISH TO BE ISOLATED IN DEALING WITH US REQUEST.

2. ISSUE OF RADIOS IS ALMOST CERTAIN TO ARISE IN CONNECTION WITH PACKAGE THREE IN CSCE BUT THIS DOES NOT MITIGATE BASIC ISSUE OF FINANCING RFE/RL, AND WE WOULD NOT WISH CSCE TALKS TO DELAY FLOW OF INFORMATION, IT IS POSSIBLE IT COULD TIE UP EC NINE'S PROCESS OF REACHING A DECISION ON US REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF RESEARCH COSTS.

3. RENEWED EFFORTS IN THE SENATE TO VOTE THROUGH AMENDMENT LIMITING US GOVERNMENT FUNDING SUPPORT OF RADIOS AFTER JULY 1, 1974 TO 50 PER CENT OF OPERATING COSTS POSES LIFE AND DEATH SITUATION FOR RADIOS. IF PASSED, RADIOS WILL HAVE TO INITIATE TERMINATION NOTICES PROMPTLY. IF DEFEATED AS WE EXPECT, IT WILL STILL UNDERLINE NEED FOR SOME WEST EUROPEAN COMMITMENT BEFORE FY 1975 BUDGET FOR RADIOS SUBMITTED LATE IN YEAR.

4. FOR BONN: RECOMMEND EMBASSY BONN SEEK NEW CONSULTATION WITH MFA AND TAKE POSITION THAT, WITH UK AND DUTCH COOPERATION AND OUR ENCOURAGEMENT, ISSUE HAS NOW BEEN MULTILATERALIZED TO SOME DEGREE AS FRG DESIRED. MOST EC NINE GOVERNMENTS, EXCEPT FOR FRANCE AND IRELAND, APPEAR FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO SOME FORM OF CONTRIBUTION. DECISIONS NOW NEEDED ON CONTRIBUTIONS OF A DEGREE OF MAGNITUDE WHICH WILL PROBABLY REQUIRE PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL. US WOULD WELCOME FRG SUGGESTIONS AS TO BEST MEANS OF OBTAINING NEEDED LEVEL OF SUPPORT. COULD A COMMITTEE OPERATING UNDER AEGIS OF EC NINE OR SOME OF EC NINE TAKE ON PROBLEM OF FUNDING RFE/RL RESEARCH SUGGESTING PROPORTIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM EUROPEAN STATES? OR WOULD THE FOUNDATION FOR THE FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION NOW ESTABLISHED UNDER H.A. VAN ROIJEN (FORMER DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTER) IN THE CONFIDENTIAL

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HAGUE FOR THE PURPOSE OF RAISING NON-GOVERNMENTAL CONTRIBUTIONS BE A USEFUL VEHICLE FOR CHANNELLING GOVERNMENTAL SUPPORT TO THE RADIOS? WOULD IT BE A PREFERABLE VEHICLE IF ITS MANDATE COVERED SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH ON E. EUROPE AND THE SOVIET UNION IN GENERAL AND NOT ONLY RFE/RL RESEARCH? COULD THESE QUESTIONS BE REVIEWED BETWEEN UK AND FRG AT FORTHCOMING MEETING OF INFORMATION OFFICIALS?

5. FYI: SUBSCRIPTION CHANNEL, AS FRAU KRUEGER INDICATED IN BONN'S 12177, NOT LIKELY GENERATE LEVEL OF CONTRIBUTION DESIRED. DEPARTMENT IS PREPARED TO SUGGEST VARIOUS MODALITIES TO RADIOS WHICH MIGHT MAKE A SALEABLE PACKAGE OF RESEARCH BENEFITS BUT PREFERS NOT TO CHANNEL FRG THINKING TOWARDS THIS OPTION.

6. FOR LONDON: EMBASSY SHOULD TAKE SAME LINE WITH FONOFF AS IN PARA 5 ABOVE WITH EXCEPTION OF FIRST SENTENCE OF PARA 5.

7. FOR LONDON AND BONN: FOREGOING SHOULD BE CONVEYED IF POSSIBLE BEFORE DEPARTURE OF UK AND FRG PARTICIPANTS IN ANNUAL FRG-UK CONSULTATION SEPTEMBER 10-11.

8. REPORTING TELEGRAMS SHOULD BE ROUTED TO ACTION AND INFO ADDRESSEES SHOWN ON THIS TELEGRAM. RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE176743
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/EE:JABAKER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS SPRINGSTEEN
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730953/aaaabmpo.tel
Line Count: 132
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BONN 12177, LUXEMBOURG 579, COPENHAG, EN 1801
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31-Jul-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <17-Sep-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RFE/RL FUND RAISING IN EUROPE CONFIDENTIAL
TAGS: PFOR, XG
To: BONN MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005